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Via Facsimile (301) 443-3100

December 17, 1999

Dr. Jane Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: Food Labeling: Trans Fatty Acids in Nutrition Labeling, Nutrient Content Claims, and Health Claims, Docket No. 94P-0036, Request for Comment Period Extension

Dear Dr. Henney:

The American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI) is the national trade association representing manufacturers and processors of frozen food products, as well as their marketers and suppliers throughout the United States. AFFI's more than 560 member companies account for over 90 percent of the total annual production of frozen food throughout the United States, valued at approximately \$60 billion. AFFI members are located throughout the country and are engaged in the manufacture, processing, transportation, distribution and sale of products nationwide.

AFFI appreciates the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) desire to promulgate and finalize specific requirements for nutrition labeling of trans fatty acids which the agency has contemplated for some time. However, the length of the Preamble, complicated nature of the issues addressed, and numerous questions to which FDA has requested a response in the proposal necessitates a thorough and thoughtful analysis and comment on the issues. The comment deadline of February 15, 2000, will not afford AFFI the time necessary to adequately complete this task.

As you are probably aware, this proposal will have a profound effect on the labeling of many foods including frozen processed foods. Importantly, food processors and the trade associations which represent them need adequate time to survey the impact of the regulation on their members. This task cannot be completed in the time allotted by FDA for submission of comments..

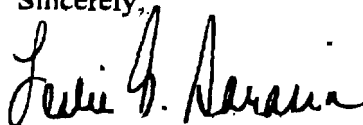
94P-0036



EXT 1

To ensure that FDA receives the best information **from** which a final rule may be carved, AFFI requests a 90 day extension to the comment period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie G. Sarasin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "S".

Leslie G. **Sarasin**, CAE

President and

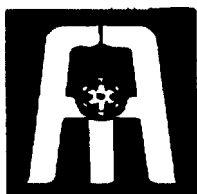
Chief Executive Officer

cc: FDA Docket Management Branch (301) 827-6870

facsimile
TRANSMITTAL

To: FDA Ocket Management Branch
Organization: _____
Fax: 301 427 6870
From: Leslie Sarasin
Date: 12/17/99
Subject: Comment Extension Date Request
Pages: 3

Comments: _____



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